

Each of these opportunities for upward economic and social mobility are available in few other countries outside the United States. Therefore, maintaining equal access to these opportunities is a vital part of preserving the very principles that make this country unique and will prove to be an effective way to eliminate gaps in income, wealth and educational attainment within this country that are too often defined along the lines of race or socioeconomic status.

The Opportunity Compact serves as a vehicle to develop a serious plan of action to address the persistent inequalities faced by those in urban communities. Yet, all Americans, regardless of place of residence or racial identity, can benefit from the policy recommendations presented in this blueprint for economic equality. Furthermore, there is a role for all parties to play—private citizens, national, state and local governments, community-based service providers and the business community—as together, we seek to strengthen our Nation by maximizing the potential of all its citizens. By generating new ideas, initiating productive partnerships and fostering collaboration, The Opportunity Compact seeks to expand access to the incentives and rewards that act as the driving force behind what makes this country great—personal responsibility, initiative and hard work.

Madam Speaker, I firmly believe that the proposals embodied in the National Urban League's Opportunity Compact provide a powerful framework for approaching the difficult challenges faced by America's cities. I therefore rise today to congratulate the National Urban League for its work on behalf of cities and for bringing The Opportunity Compact to the attention of Congress.

TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA J. KURTZ

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cynthia J. Kurtz, who recently retired from her post as City Manager of Pasadena, California. Ms. Kurtz served the City for over 20 years, spending the last 10 years as the chief administrative officer of Pasadena's diverse community of 144,000 residents and has left a legacy that will be enjoyed by generations to come.

In her capacity as city manager, Cynthia was responsible for over 2,300 employees with an operating budget of over \$550 million. With a keen vision for the "big picture" and a wealth of experience to draw upon, she was the driving force behind some of the most important projects in the city's history.

Cynthia came to Pasadena after 10 years of employment with the city of Portland, Oregon, where she held a variety of positions in the Office of Transportation and the Bureau of Economic Development. That experience served Pasadena well when she was hired as the City's Capital Program Administrator in 1987. In 1991, she became director of public works for the City of Pasadena where she shepherded high profile projects such as the delicate \$24 million reconstruction of the historic Colorado Street Bridge.

During my years in the California State Senate, I worked with Cynthia on the planning for

a light rail line from Los Angeles to Pasadena, and her contributions to that project were vital to its success. Completed on time and under budget, the Gold Line light rail project has been an invaluable asset to the San Gabriel Valley, and especially to Pasadena.

The Pasadena City Council was well aware of Cynthia's hard work on their behalf, and when the position of city manager became open in 1998, she was the first woman to be appointed to that post. As city manager, she first concentrated on solidifying budget procedures while also attending to the quality of life issues that make Pasadena a special place to live and work.

Ms. Kurtz's most recent landmark achievement was last year's completion of a \$118 million renovation of historic Pasadena City Hall. When the structure was determined to be seismically vulnerable, she worked with her staff to create a plan that would safeguard Pasadena employees while also preserving this most recognizable jewel of the "Crown City." The project was completed ahead of schedule and continues to stand as a testament to Pasadena's rich architectural heritage.

Cynthia Kurtz has been an invaluable asset to the city of Pasadena, and I ask all Members to join me in thanking Cynthia J. Kurtz for over 2 decades of dedicated service.

HONORING THE EASTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce on achieving an important milestone, its 75th anniversary. Since 1933, the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce has tirelessly promoted its members and the economic health of our community. I am honored to represent this organization in Congress.

In 1933, the Jenkintown Businessmen's Association was incorporated with just 44 members. Since that time, the chamber has changed its name a number of times to mark its growth within the business community. In 1961, the organization became the Jenkintown Chamber of Commerce. By 1968, the organization became known as the Greater Jenkintown Chamber of Commerce to reflect the expansion of its service area. In 1992, the chamber became the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce.

While successfully fulfilling its mission to support and promote local businesses of all sizes, the chamber has also successfully established strong community ties. The chamber has partnered with area businesses to host the annual Best of the Burbs celebration of business cultural and community events, featuring the chamber's annual Business Expo, which showcases over 100 area businesses. In 2003, the chamber established Leadership Montgomery County, an innovative program dedicated to strengthening the personal and professional skills of our community's future leaders.

The chamber's active board of directors and committed staff implement outreach, advocacy

and fundraising activities to strengthen the chamber's enduring presence in the community. Over the past 75 years, the Eastern Montgomery Chamber of Commerce has served as a powerful catalyst, uniting businesses, community agencies, government officials, and educational institutions to make our community a great place to live and work.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's 75th anniversary milestone and wishing the chamber and its members many more years of community enrichment and service.

TRIBUTE TO MONSIGNOR WILLIAM J. LINDER

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to acknowledge the lifetime service of Monsignor William J. Linder, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newark, New Jersey and founder of the New Community Corporation.

Monsignor Linder has served in the Catholic priesthood for more than 44 years, spending the entire length of his ministry in Newark, New Jersey. For the past 31 years he has been the pastor of St. Rose of Lima parish, a multi-ethnic and multi-racial congregation with representation from 42 nations around the world.

The New Community Corporation celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. Its history is filled with stories of service to the city of Newark. The New Community Corporation is the most comprehensive and largest community development organization in the United States, employing over 1600 individuals and providing urban dwellers with housing, day care, alternative education, social services, job training, employment services and health care.

Monsignor Linder has received many honors and awards including the HUD Distinguished Service Award, The National Association of Home Builders Housing Hall of Fame award, the Aetna Foundation Voice of Conscience Award, the MacArthur Foundation Fellows Award and the Governor's Gold Medal (NJ). He was also selected by President Clinton to attend the president's first inauguration as one of the 60 "Faces of Hope" and by President Bush to participate in a conference on faith-based initiatives.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in honoring a wonderful servant to humanity. I am pleased to recognize his tremendous contributions to the city of Newark and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO LOUVENIA JOHNSON

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a woman of faith,

journalist, businesswoman, communicator and grassroots activist from the Fourth Congressional District. Mrs. Louvenia Johnson passed away on February 27, at the age of 96.

Born in McDermott, Arkansas, Mrs. Johnson relocated to Milwaukee in 1939, with her husband, Paul Johnson, who preceded her in death. She worked in the health care field as a Licensed Practical Nurse. She was Executive Director of Project Focal Point, a youth and elderly service agency. After retirement in 1981, she established "The Christian Times" with three others: Nathan Conyers, Lynda Jackson-Conyers, and the late Luther Golden. The weekly newspaper was devoted to church news within the city's African American faith community. The paper was renamed "The Milwaukee Times Weekly Newspaper" as it began to cover more general community news. The Christian Times remains as a standing feature section of that newspaper to this day.

Louvenia Johnson established "The Black Excellence Awards Program" in 1985, to recognize the good works of ordinary people from Milwaukee's black community whose accomplishments had gone unnoticed. The awards program observed its 23rd year on February 15, 2008. More than 680 local citizens whose activities have benefited all of Milwaukee have been recipients of the award.

Mrs. Johnson established The Louvenia Johnson Journalism Scholarship Fund in 1988 to assist college-bound high school graduates who wished to pursue careers in print and broadcast journalism. She initially funded the scholarship with money from her Social Security benefits. The scholarship funds are awarded during The Black Excellence Awards Program. To date, more than \$350,000 has been awarded to area students through this non-profit, charitable organization. Previous scholarship recipients include Jamaal Abdul-Alim, an urban affairs reporter for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel; and Silvia Acevedo, news reporter for WTMJ-TV/Channel 4 in Milwaukee.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Louvenia Johnson who is survived by her siblings, Mr. Harvey Williams, Mrs. Algenora Davenport, nieces, nephews and many friends. Mrs. Johnson has made a positive impact on Milwaukee and her contributions and legacy continue to benefit the citizens of the Fourth Congressional District.

NORTHWEST INDIANA BUSINESS
AND INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with the utmost sincerity and admiration that I rise to commend seven exceptional business leaders from Northwest Indiana who will be honored as the inaugural class of the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame. Created by The Times and BusIness magazine, induction into the Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame is determined by a panel of local civic and business leaders. While there were many deserving nominees, the individuals selected as the 2008 Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame inductees

are: Mark Maassel, Donald Powers, Mamon Powers, Jr., Denis Ribordy, Frank Van Til, Robert Welsh, Jr., and Dean White. For their many contributions to the enhancement of Northwest Indiana, these honorees will be recognized at a ceremony taking place at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza in Merrillville, Indiana, on Friday, March 7, 2008.

Mark Maassel is the former president of the Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), as well as a leader of the Northwest Indiana Forum. For many years, Mark has been seen as an innovative leader, not only in terms of his profession, but for his charitable efforts in the community as well. In one of many examples, Mark is largely credited with bringing together the United Way campaigns throughout Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties in Indiana. He has also been an active leader with the Indiana Humanities Council, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, and the Ivy Tech Foundation.

Donald Powers is the president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana, Inc. and the Community Healthcare System and the founder of a very successful real estate development company. Known throughout Northwest Indiana and beyond for his vision and determination, Donald is credited with the development of Munster, Indiana, as well as the Community Hospital and the Center for Visual and Performing Arts. In addition, he has been instrumental in the development of the Purdue University-Calumet campus in Hammond, Indiana.

Mamon Powers, Jr. is the president and CEO of Powers and Sons Construction Company, Inc., the company founded by his father in 1967. After learning the value of hard work and dedication from his father, Mamon took over the company and has always found a way to give back to his community. Mamon has always been active in serving the youth and has been a constant supporter of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana. In addition, he also serves as a trustee with Purdue University.

Denis Ribordy was the owner of Ribordy Drugs, Inc., a very successful chain of twenty-six drug stores throughout Indiana, prior to its sale in 1985. He was also president and CEO of Ribordy Enterprises, which consisted of eight Hallmark stores. Having started his drug store business in Gary, Indiana, in 1955, Denis has always remained active in the community. Throughout his career, Denis has been recognized on numerous occasions for his commitment to Tradewinds and many charities throughout his community.

Frank Van Til is the co-owner of Van Til's supermarket in Hammond, Indiana. Raised in the grocery store business, Frank's parents opened their first store in Hammond in 1936. The Van Til family eventually went into business with the Strack family to create what would become a successful chain of 29 supermarkets throughout Indiana and Illinois. Although the Strack and Van Til stores were sold in 1998, Frank continues to operate Van Til's supermarket in Hammond. Not only did Frank learn the grocery business from his father, but he also learned the importance of being an active member of the community, and to this day, he remains an active member of many civic and charitable organizations in Northwest Indiana.

Robert Welsh, Jr. was the owner of the former Welsh Oil Company and is the current

CEO and chairman of Welsh Holdings LLC. Throughout his career, Robert's innovative thinking has made him a true pioneer in his field. As the owner of Welsh Oil Company, he is credited with many modern advancements, including self-serve gasoline stations, alcohol-blended fuels, and food service within gasoline stations. Robert has been the recipient of many accolades, not only for his business ventures, but also for his constant commitment to his community. Most notably, Robert has been recognized as the University of Notre Dame's Man of the Year. Always an advocate of the youth, Robert has been an active contributor to the Calumet Council of the Boy Scouts of America for over 30 years.

Dean White, CEO of Whiteco Industries, is credited with turning Merrillville, Indiana into the retail center that it is today. Dean is the founder of the Star Plaza in Merrillville, and he has developed much of the surrounding area, which includes hotels, businesses, shops, and offices. With business ventures ranging from billboard advertising to residential and hotel development to high-technology innovations, Dean's holdings include companies local to Northwest Indiana as well as businesses throughout the world. While Dean's contributions to business and development in Northwest Indiana are well known, it is equally important to acknowledge the impact he has made on his community through his constant support of local charities and organizations in the area.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding leaders on their induction into the Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame. These individuals are most deserving of being named the Inaugural Class of 2008, and for their leadership and commitment to the Northwest Indiana community, each of the recipients is worthy of our respect and admiration.

IN HONOR OF THE NATIONAL
PEACE CORPS WEEK AND THOSE
SERVING IN THE PEACE CORPS
FROM THE 24TH DISTRICT OF
TEXAS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the Peace Corps and its 47 years of service. Nearly 200,000 U.S. citizens have served their country, as well as instilling peace and goodwill in 139 countries abroad, since March 1, 1961. The week of February 25–March 3, 2008 was celebrated around the U.S. as National Peace Corps Week.

Currently 15 residents of the 24th District of Texas are serving abroad in 14 different countries. These selfless individuals should be recognized for their commitment to peace and development.

Their names and respective countries of service are as follows: Ryan Alvares—Mozambique; Lauren Banta—Senegal; Andrew Birdsell—Ecuador; Melanie Bittle—Nicaragua; Eric Brooke—Bulgaria; Kira Cha—Costa Rica; David Fox—Macedonia; Courtney Gilman—Gambia; Robert Henderson—Ukraine; Mary Jones—Georgia; Jamie Lewis—Malawi; Curtis